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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

LS 6378

BILL NUMBER: SB 253

NOTE PREPARED: Dec 6, 2012

BILL AMENDED:

SUBJECT: Recounts and Contests.

FIRST AUTHOR: Sen. Young R Michael

FIRST SPONSOR:

BILL STATUS: As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL
DEDICATED
FEDERAL**

IMPACT: State & Local

Summary of Legislation: This bill has the following provisions:

Absentee Ballots- The bill requires that the words "absentee ballot" be printed in prominent type with uniform capital letters at the top of every absentee ballot prepared and printed by a county election board.

Recount Commissions and Voting System Experts- The bill eliminates the requirement that the third member of a recount commission be a mechanic. The bill requires that all contracts or leases for the sale or lease of voting equipment, systems, or software entered into, amended, or renewed after June 30, 2013, must include a provision that requires the vendor of the voting equipment, systems, or software, in the event of a recount of an election in which the vendor's voting equipment, systems, or software is used, to provide to the recount commission a competent expert who is familiar with the voting equipment, systems, or software used in the election.

Uniform Deadlines for Filing Recount Petitions- The bill provides that multiple recount petitions, in order to be consolidated, must be filed not later than noon on the fourteenth day (in the case of petitions filed by candidates) or seventeenth day (in the case of petitions filed by county chairmen) after election day. (Under current law, the petitions must be filed not later than noon on the seventh day after election day.)

State Recount Commission- The bill eliminates the requirement that the State Recount Commission's (SRC) hearing on a contest petition be convened at least two days after the contest proceeding is ordered.

Effective Date: July 1, 2013.

Explanation of State Expenditures: *State Recount Commission*- This provision would allow the State Recount Commission more time to prepare for a hearing on a recount petition.

Explanation of State Revenues:

Explanation of Local Expenditures: *Recount Commissions and Voting System Experts*- This provision could have an indeterminable impact on future contracts between counties and election system vendors. Requiring a vendor to provide a qualified expert during recounts could potentially increase contract costs.

Explanation of Local Revenues:

State Agencies Affected: State Recount Commission.

Local Agencies Affected: County election boards; county recount commissions.

Information Sources:

Fiscal Analyst: Chris Baker, 317-232-9851.